

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 RSC-01 DRC-01 /032 W

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R 261200Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5033

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1043

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, GB

SUBJ: VISAS FOR AMERICANS COMING TO GABON: DRAIZIN

ARRIVAL

REF: STATE 230600

1. EMBASSY ALWAYS WILLING TO ARRANGE NECESSARY EMERGENCY AIRPORT VISAS AND WILL ATTEMPT TO DO SO FOR DRAIZIN.

2. WISH POINT OUT HOWEVER THAT EACH AIRPORT VISA REQUEST MADE REDUCES RESERVOIR OF LOCAL GOODWILL WHICH EMBASSY BELIEVES MUST BE MAINTAINED FOR UNUSUAL OR EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES, SOMETHING WE FIND DIFFICULT TO SEE IN DRAIZIN CASE.

3. PRESUME DRAIZIN KNOWS THAT GABONESE VISAS EASILY OBTAINABLE AT GOG EMBASSY PARIS. CIRCUMSTANCES EVIDENTLY DO NOT ALLOW HIM TO TAKE FEW HOURS OUT OF HIS SCHEDULE TO OBTAIN VISA THERE.

4. SINCE PRESIDENT BONGO'S AUGUST 7 LETTER TO GOG AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON ORDERING HIM TO GIVE BUSINESSMEN VISAS WITHOUT CLEARING WITH LIBREVILLE, WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF VISA PROBLEMS FROM BUSINESSMEN WHO APPLY IN WASHINGTON. PRESUMABLY DRAIZIN COULD NOT GET TO WASHINGTON.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT STATE/COMMERCE MAKE CERTAIN
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BUSINESS VISITORS TO GABON AWARE OF GENERALLY EXPEDITIOUS

VISA ISSUANCES THROUGH GOG EMBASSIES WASHINGTON AND
PARIS. WITH FLOW OF VISITORS IN CONNECTION WITH
TRANSGABON RAILROAD INCREASING, WE WILL BE HARD-PRESSED
TO MAINTAIN LEVEL OF OTHER IMPORTANT SERVICES TO
BUSINESSMEN IF EXCESSIVE TIME SPENT IN LIASON WITH
MFA AND AIRPORT OFFICIALS. AT THE SAME TIME WE WILL
MAINTAIN PRESSURE FROM THIS END TO INSURE THAT GOG
INSTRUCTS ITS EMBASSIES ABROAD TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH
VISAS TO US BUSINESS VISITORS.MCKESSON

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